

THE FIGHTERS FOR THE FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

Resume of a speech delivered by Dr. Israel Schoib,  
on the 1st August, 1948, at the Orion Hall, Jerusalem.

This is the third public meeting held by the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel; all of them dedicated to Jerusalem since this is the burning issue and the trial of strength. Ahiullah and the Imperialists know what History teaches: He who rules Jerusalem rules the land. It was Divine strategy which signled out Jerusalem to be the capital of the country. The Kingdom of the Philistines, the Phoenicians and the Crusaders crumbled. There is no possibility for a capital built upon the seashore. Jerusalem is the key position; hence the war for its possession.

But it is not the spiritual Jerusalem which we seek; there is no spirit without the body. Christianity fashioned an axiom: Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and unto God that which belongs to God. Judaism is a monotheistic religion. Hebrew etymology has one root for the two words, Spirit and Breath, the essence of Mind and the essence of Matter. Even Rome, which agreed to the grant of extra-territoriality for the Papal See at the Vatican, would not acquiesce in the Internationalisation of Jerusalem. We shall safeguard the sanctity of the Holy Sepulchre if, indeed, the world takes interest therein. But Jerusalem shall be the capital of the Jewish land.

Bernadotte is trying by political means to rescue what the British forfeited by direct administration and the Arabs by military ineptitude.

The Fighters for the Freedom of Israel hereby proclaim to Bernadotte and all the observers: Let them not delude themselves that they can rule here. Those who fought the British administration will fight any non-Jewish administration in Jerusalem in the same way that they resisted the British, even if there be Jews who may wish to aid the alien newcomers just as they helped the British to oppress us. We cannot be destroyed; we cannot be smashed; we cannot be purchased.

The Fighters for the Freedom of Israel hereby warn the United Nations observers, Bernadotte's generals, and all the officials and soldiery who may be sent here to demilitarise Jerusalem and set up a non-Jewish administration; it cannot and will not be. We shall deal with any foreign ruler by the same methods as we dealt with the British, and it would be wise for them carefully to scan the newspapers over the past few years to ascertain the true intent and character of the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel.

Let them cast this account and withdraw with honour; and Jerusalem shall become the capital of the great Jewish Kingdom.

Jerusalem, 2nd August, 1948.

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